

HORTICULTURE COMMITTEE

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Dear Horticulture Members,

Please find below the July update from the Association concerning Horticulture issues currently being dealt with by the Committee.

At this time we invite all Horticulture Members to participate in the upcoming Horticulture Annual General Meeting ('AGM') and Conference which will be held on Monday 27 July 2009 in Sydney.

We look forward to meeting up with all Members at the Conference to discuss the current and future policy issues facing Horticulture producers in NSW.

Regards,



Peter Darley
Chairman – NSW Farmers Association Horticulture Committee

Submission of 2009 Horticulture AGM Motions

The Horticulture AGM is the main policy formulation event for the NSW Farmers' Association Horticulture Members. If you would like to submit a motion for consideration and help shape the Horticulture Committee's policy priorities for the next year, please complete the attached motion submission form and send it to Jason Cappello, Policy Officer via fax or mail by **5pm Monday 13 July 2009**.

Horticulture AGM & Conference

Members are advised the Horticulture AGM & Conference will be held on Monday 27 July 2009. Further details on the Conference can be found on the attached flyer at the end of this Hortupdate.

NSW Vegetable Industry Development Officer

The NSW Vegetable Industry Development officer project concluded on June 30 2009. Alison Anderson who has been the NSW Vegetable Industry Development Officer for the past eight and half years has finished activities as of June 30. The Association would like to thank Alison for her significant contribution and support to Vegetable growers of NSW and the Vegetable Industry.

The Vegetable Industry Development Program will now run under a new arrangement with successful program managers soon to be announced.

Horticulture Award Modernisation

The NSW Farmers Association's Industrial team has been busy supporting industry efforts as the Australian Industrial Relations Commission (the 'AIRC') has undertaken the modernisation of agricultural awards. This has included the creation of the Horticulture Award 2010 ('HA 2010'), which will cover all incorporated (i.e. Pty Ltd companies) horticulturalists from 1 January 2010.

In comparison to the Horticulture Industry (State) Award (NSW) the HA2010 removed the daily span of ordinary hours that may be worked between and removes the ordinary time penalty for work on Saturdays for field workers.

These benefits however have been offset by a reduction in the flexibility of hours for packing shed staff and the increase of the Sunday penalty loading for all employees from 150% to 200%. Whilst the casual loading has been increased from 15% to 25%, this is partially offset by employers covered by the HA 2010 no longer needing to apply a 1/12th annual holiday loading to the ordinary hours of a casual employee.

The Association has outlined that the largest concern that has arisen within the HA 2010 is the setting of a base rate for workers engaged on a piece work basis. That is that pieceworkers will be required to earn at least the rate of pay that they otherwise would have made as a time worker. This will increase the regulatory burden with regards to record keeping, limit the ability of employers to engage lifestyle fruit pickers such as 'grey nomads' and increase costs to horticulturalists. Through the National Farmers Federation ('NFF'), the Association is continuing to oppose the reduction of flexibilities included within the HA2010.

The Association strongly encourages employers to assess their existing arrangements and discuss this with the Association's Industrial Relations team to identify what impact the HA2010 Award may have on your business.

Businesses may also consider making collective agreements. A collective agreement can be tailored to the specific needs of the enterprise, can provide more flexibility, and can agree on conditions more suitable to the business and its employees. While an agreement may also reduce the impact of the proposed higher costs flowing on from the HA 2010, it is important to remember that wages or conditions must pass the No-Disadvantage Test which is assessed by the Workplace Authority. After July 1 2009 the applicable test is the Better-Off-Overall-Test. The Association's Industrial Relations team can assist with this.

For further information, Members can contact the Association's specialised Industrial Relations team on 1300 794 000. Non – members are welcomed to join to benefit from the services of Association's Industrial Relation team and Association services

Horticulture Committee meeting

The Association's Horticulture Committee held a face to face meeting at Head Office in Sydney on Friday 22 May 2009. A report on the meeting is provided below.

- Horticulture Annual General Meeting and Conference: The Committee discussed the upcoming Annual General Meeting and the Conference program. The Conference will focus on the opportunities for Horticulturists to be practically involved in the role of Carbon in Horticulture.
- Presentation by AUSVEG Chief Executive Officer: The new Chief Executive Officer of AUSVEG, Mr Richard Mulcahy addressed the meeting on the issues facing AUSVEG as well as some of the initiatives he was considering.
- Apple Promotions: The Committee has secured further funding towards the promotion of Apple and Pears in NSW for the 2008/09 financial year. As a part of the program the Committee will undertake the 2009 AppleQuest program, a biennial program to engage healthy eating and fresh foods amongst primary school children. Promotions will also be involved with several smaller events including 'National Ride to Work Day' to be held in October 2009.
- Horticulture Modern Award Update: Staff from the Association's Industrial Relations section updated the Committee on the Horticulture Modern Award. The Association together with the NFF has been active collecting case studies of the implications of the proposed award. A number of Members expressed their concern about the likely adverse impact of the Award Modernisation process on the Horticulture sector. The NFF provided a submission on Transitional Provisions that has been filed with the Australian Industrial Relations Commission.
- Other issues discussed at the meeting included the Vegetable Industry Development Officer tender program, Flying Fox Management in NSW, Forklift and Front-End loader licence renewals and Chemical Use in the Sydney Basin.

Horticulture Code of Conduct Update

The Horticulture Code Committee held their third meeting on 5 May 2009 in Sydney in an effort to resolve the Committee's views on the possible implications that the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's recommendations to amend the Code may have for the Horticulture Industry. Industry perspectives collected during the Committee's consultation period varied widely across industry sectors. The Committee agreed that their report to the Minister should detail these divergent views. To further evaluate the implications of the recommendations, the Committee also considered the relationships between recommendations and their implementation. The Committee is now finalising its report to the Minister.

Apple and Pear Industry Meetings

Apple and Pear Australia Limited ('APAL') held their NSW industry meetings for all apple and pear levy payers in NSW on the 15th and 16th June 2009. The meetings discussed proposed changes to the levy along with biosecurity updates on imports, marketing campaign update and industry strategic planning.

Underground Petroleum Storage Systems

The Department of Climate Change and Environment ('DECC') have finalised the guidelines on implementing the Protection of the Environment Operations (Underground Petroleum Storage Systems) Regulation 2008. The regulation does not apply to underground petroleum systems that do not contain petroleum.

It is industry best practice to remove underground petroleum systems that are no longer required. Where two years have elapsed since fuel was put in or taken from a tank, it must be abandoned (after removing the fuel) in accordance with the Occupational Health and Safety (Dangerous Goods) Regulation 2001. A copy of the guidelines for Implementing the Protection of the Environment Operations (Underground Petroleum Storage Systems) Regulation 2008 can be found on the DECC website at

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/clm/upssguidelines.htm>.

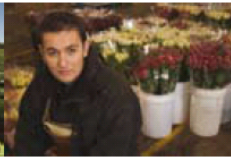
Vegetable Industry New Zealand Tour

Growers are being called to participate in the Australian vegetable growers opportunity to view leading agriculture practices in New Zealand as part of a National Vegetable Levy-funded tour. The tour is aimed at enthusiastic and innovative young growers and will enable the participants to visit vegetable operations near Christchurch, Timaru, and Ashburton in New Zealand from 17 to 25 July 2009. For more information about the tour including details of the itinerary, please contact AUSVEG Communications Manager on phone 03 9544 8098 or visit www.ausveg.com.au.

New Minor-Use Permits

Members are advised a significant number of minor-use permits have been issued by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Authority ('APVMA') recently. For further details visit

<http://www.apvma.gov.au/permits/permits.shtml>



Growing
the Business
of Farming

NSW
Farmers
ASSOCIATION

NSW Farmers' Association invites all Horticulture Producers to **HORTICULTURE AGM & CONFERENCE** **'Horticulture and Carbon for the Future'**

Developing a Future with Carbon towards Sustainable Healthy Soils,
Healthy Foods and a Healthy Nation.

The feature presentations on the role of the Carbon Coalition and Carbon Footprinting in Horticulture are a must for all Horticulture producers.

Date: Monday, 27 July 2009 Time: 9:30am - 5:00pm
Venue: Southee Complex, Sydney Showground, Sydney Olympic Park
RSVP: by Wednesday, 22 July 2009. Fill in this form and fax back to 8251 1750.

All welcome

Non-Members are welcome to attend but may only observe during the Committee AGM.

GUEST SPEAKERS	TOPIC
Mr Michael Kiely, Carbon Farmers of Australia	Carbon Coalition - the benefits and role in Horticulture
Mr Peter Deuter, Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries	Carbon foot printing in Horticulture
Mr James Turtle, Toughnet Australia Pty Ltd	Crop Netting Protection Structures
Ms Kathryn Adams, Australian Centre for Intellectual Property in Agriculture	Capturing the value: Intellectual Property (IP) and Commercialisation in Horticulture
Mr Michael Champion, Champion Organics	Slow food movement tour report
NSW Farmers Industrial Association	Horticulture Modernisation Award 2010
Mr Peter Mills, Charles Sturt University	University Studies in Horticulture



An Electric Mitsubishi Triton Ute will be on display at the Conference. The Ute was built by Bathurst farmer Michael Inwood and is being touted as **'the world's first solar-powered crop planting system'**.

REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete in full with a blue or black pen in CAPITAL LETTERS.

Name: Member No. (if applicable):

Company:

Mailing Address:

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Tel: Fax:

Email address:

RSVP by Wednesday, 22 July 2009 Please fax completed form to (02) 8251 1750 or phone 1300 794 000